## SECTION 200.00 - CROSSING SAFETY

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## SECTION 205.00–RAILROAD CROSSING INVENTORY

The United States Department of Transportation and the Association of American Railroads established the National Rail-highway crossing inventory in the early 1970's, with the cooperative effort of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), individual states and individual Railroad Companies. The inventory requires all at-grade and grade-separated crossings, both public and private in the United States, to be surveyed and data recorded for the National Inventory File regarding the location of the crossing, the amount and type of train traffic, traffic control devices, and other physical elements of the rail-highway intersection. Each crossing is assigned a unique identification number consisting of six numeric characters and an alphabetic character.

The FRA voluntarily serves as custodian of the national inventory file. The inventory is kept current through submission of crossing data by the ITD Headquarters Traffic Section, Rail-Highway Safety Coordinator and Railroad Companies. All public crossings, both at-grade and grade separation, are inventoried on a three year cycle. This information is transmitted to the FRA on a quarterly basis. Whenever a change occurs at a crossing (i.e., installation of warning devices), the Railroad Company or ITD initiates an update. The Rail-Highway Safety Coordinator maintains Idaho's Railroad Crossing Inventory independent of the FRA National Crossing Inventory.

The ITD Traffic Manual Section 851.04 charges Headquarters Traffic Section with the responsibility for monitoring and updating the State's portion of the National Railroad Crossing Inventory.

## SECTION 210.00–COLLISION INVENTORY AND CROSSING PRIORITY

Idaho Code 62-304D requires ITD to establish a priority ranking for railroad crossings, assigning priority first to the most hazardous railroad crossing locations. Idaho Code 62-304D also requires every Railroad Company to file all collision reports with ITD to be used in the Priority Index.

No part of any report filed with ITD as required by Idaho Code 62-304D, or of any record, or a copy thereof, or of any hearing held under the provisions of this section may be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal.

The ITD Traffic Manual Section 855.00 charges Headquarters Traffic Section with the responsibility for distributing the Priority Index internally within ITD, and establishing crossing upgrade project priorities.

## SECTION 215.00–DIAGNOSTIC REVIEW

The diagnostic review is a simple survey procedure utilizing experienced individuals from various agencies and disciplines, to evaluate railroad crossings as to deficiencies, and document recommended improvements. A Diagnostic Review Team is composed of representatives having responsibility for the safe operation of the grade crossing to be evaluated. To ensure that each of the factors relating to the operational and physical characteristics of the crossing may be properly

identified individual team members will be selected based on their specific expertise and experience.

The Diagnostic Team inspects the crossing and its surrounding area and reviews all available crossing data. The objective is to determine the conditions at the grade crossing that affect safety and traffic operations. When the diagnostic review of a crossing has been completed, the results and recommendations shall be documented. The Diagnostic Team recommendations are to be the project concept and can only be changed by the Chief Engineer in a letter explaining the reasons for the concept changes on state routes or the assembly of another Diagnostic Team whose recommendations differ due to changed conditions or technology. Local roadway jurisdictions can also request new field reviews for projects on the local roadway system. Implementation of the recommendations should follow as soon as possible.

In addition to the diagnostic review, several other types of engineering reviews may be appropriate when evaluating safety of rail-highway intersections. For details on ITD procedures regarding diagnostic or other engineering reviews, refer to ITD Traffic Manual Section 852.00.

## SECTION 220.00 – RAILROAD CROSSING TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

ITD Traffic Manual Section 853.00 provides detailed information on Railroad Crossing Traffic Control Devices.

## SECTION 225.00 – ROADWAY GEOMETRICS

ITD Traffic Manual Section 854.00 provides details on Roadway Geometrics.